

CLAIMS

Having described the present invention, we now claim:

5 1. An augmented operating system printing architecture, including:
a standard print driver with enhancements for collecting a plurality of print job
attributes when a print job is initiated on a client in a networked environment, for
communicating said print job attributes to a print server in the networked environment, and
for rendering said print job according to such print job attributes on the print server; and,
an agent service on the print server for receiving and at least temporarily
10 retaining the print job attributes communicated from the client.

2. The augmented operating system printing architecture as set forth in
claim 1, further including a standard print spooler with enhancements on the client for
communicating the print job to the print server.

15 3. The augmented operating system printing architecture as set forth in
claim 1, wherein the standard print driver with enhancements on the client further includes an
augmented user interface for collecting a plurality of print job attributes related to print job
accounting.

20 4. The augmented operating system printing architecture as set forth in
claim 1, further including a standard print spooler with enhancements on the print server for
receiving the print job communicated from the client, for controlling and managing the
processing of the print job, and for directing the print job to a target device.

25 5. The augmented operating system printing architecture as set forth in
claim 4, wherein the standard print driver with enhancements on the client further includes:
an augmented user interface for collecting a plurality of print job attributes
related to sending the print job to multiple recipients; and,
30 the standard print spooler with enhancements on the print server further
includes:

a custom language monitor for accessing the print job attributes retained by the agent service, for determining that the print job has been directed to multiple recipients, and for generating a plurality of copies of the print job, one for each of the multiple recipients.

5 6. An augmented operating system printing architecture, including:
a standard print driver with enhancements for collecting a plurality of print job attributes when a print job is initiated on a computer using a local print queue, for communicating said print job attributes and said print job to a standard print spooler with enhancements, and for rendering said print job according to such print job attributes;
10 an agent service on the computer using the local print queue for receiving and at least temporarily retaining the print job attributes communicated from the standard print driver with enhancements; and,

a standard print spooler with enhancements for controlling and managing the processing of the print job, and for directing the print job to a target device.

15 7. The augmented operating system printing architecture as set forth in claim 6, wherein the standard print driver with enhancements further includes an augmented user interface for collecting a plurality of print job attributes related to print job accounting.

20 8. The augmented operating system printing architecture as set forth in claim 6, wherein the standard print driver with enhancements further includes:

an augmented user interface for collecting a plurality of print job attributes related to sending the print job to multiple recipients; and,

the standard print spooler with enhancements further includes:
25 a custom language monitor for accessing the print job attributes, for determining that the print job has been directed to multiple recipients, and for generating a plurality of copies of the print job, one for each of the multiple recipients.

30 9. A business-to-business accounting system for controlling and monitoring print job accounting information, comprising:

an augmented Windows® 2000 printing architecture for collecting and processing a plurality of print job attributes related to print job accounting, further including:

an augmented print driver user interface for collecting the print job attributes;

5 an augmented print driver renderer for rendering the print job attributes in a print job; and,

an augmented print spooler for controlling and managing the processing of the print job and for directing the print job to a target device; and,

10 a target device for printing the print job.

10. The business-to-business accounting system as set forth in claim 9, further including:

15 a client in a networked environment using the augmented Windows® 2000 printing architecture to initiate the print job;

a print server in the networked environment using the augmented Windows® 2000 printing architecture to direct the print job to the target device; and,

20 an agent service on the print server for communicating the print job attributes between the augmented Windows® 2000 printing architecture on the client and the augmented Windows® 2000 printing architecture on the print server.

11. A method for sending a print job from a Windows® 2000 platform client to a print server, comprising the following steps:

25 a) initiating the print job from an application on the Windows® 2000 platform client;

b) collecting a plurality of print job attributes for the print job on the Windows® 2000 platform client;

c) communicating the print job attributes from the Windows® 2000 platform client to the print server; and,

30 d) rendering the print job according to the print job attributes on the print server.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein step b) further includes:
e) collecting a plurality of print job attributes related to print job accounting.

5 13. The method of claim 11, wherein step a) further includes:
e) selecting distribution of the print job to multiple recipients; and,
wherein step b) further includes:
f) collecting a plurality of print job attributes related to distribution
information for the multiple recipients of the print job; and,
further including the following step after step d):
10 g) generating a plurality of copies of the print job, one for each of the multiple
recipients.

14. A method for sending a print job from an application on a Windows®
2000 platform to a local print queue, comprising the following steps:
15 a) initiating the print job from the application;
b) selecting distribution of the print job to multiple recipients;
c) collecting a plurality of print job attributes related to distribution
information for the multiple recipients of the print job;
d) rendering the print job according to the print job attributes; and,
20 e) generating a plurality of copies of the print job, one for each of the multiple
recipients.

15 15. A computer printing system for xerographic printing, including:
a computer operating in a Windows® 2000 environment with an augmented
25 Windows® 2000 printing architecture, wherein the augmented Windows® 2000 printing
architecture further includes;

a standard print driver with enhancements for
collecting a plurality of print job attributes when a print job is
initiated; and,

a standard print spooler with enhancements for
controlling and managing the processing of the print job, and
for directing the print job to a target device; and,

- a electrophotographic printer serving as the target device for receiving the
- 5 print job, wherein the electrophotographic printer further includes;
- an imaging and exposing station;
- a photoreceptor;
- a developing station;
- a transferring station; and,
- 10 a fusing station.

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